

[Mrs. Margaret Davis]

Breathless after climbing the long flight of steps leading to Mrs [Davison's?] shop [I entered??] a narrow hall, vacant except for a table stool and telephone, over, which a light was burning.

Several chairs were grouped about a glowing heater at one end of the room. This was the sewing room, and here were two long tables used for cutting out clothing and for marking alteration garments for alteration. Finished garments almost filled the long rack [at?] one end of the room. Between two large windows a smaller table was flanked by sewing machines; one was [a?] modern electric machine, while the other was of the old fashioned pedal type. [? ?] [??]

McCune

Dec. 9-39

Jan. 18-39

Mrs. Margaret Davis (White)

193[,?] Nacoahoe Ave.

Athens, Georgia. [?]

The tailor shop of Mrs. Davis is located in the second story of the Morris building. A long flight of stairs at one side of the building leads up to the shop. As I reached the head of the stairway where a light was burning, I was in a long narrow hall, vacant except for a table , which held the telephone, and a stool.

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I knocked at the first door and a very friendly voice , said, “come in. Opening the door I entered a large work room. Several men from the different dry cleaning establishments were talking with a large dark headed woman. She proved to be Mrs. [Davison?] She asked me to have a seat, and that she would be with me in a few minutes. “Just have a seat” she said to me. “I’ll be with you in a few minutes. I moved a chair nearer the stove at one side of the room to wait for Mrs. Davis’ to get through with her customers to leave [.] This was not my first visit to the shop. And as I looked around the large room, with the two long tables that were used for cutting and marking alternations, # I saw that they were piled up with work garments to be fixed [?] . A long rack at one end of the room was filled with with finished work that was finished. A small table between the windows had a machine on each side of it. Two sewing machines [flankes?] a small table that stood between two windows One was a large electric machine, but the other was just of an old machine with the old foot peddle[.] type .

As the men put their work down and started out the door, another man came in, and said, “Miss Maggie, can you turn these shirt collars for me? # They are pretty bad, but I know that you can fix them 'em if any one can.” # Looking at “After inspecting the collars, she told him that she replied, I could can fix them as good as new, but that he would you'll have to wait, for them 'em until the next day 'til tomorrow.” He said that would be alright all right , and how added, much would it be. “What'll the job cost me?” She told him that she got 10 charged ten and 15 fifteen cents for turning collars, # according to how bad they were. The man said alright, he would much work was necessary. “All right” said the man. I'll come for them the next day. tomorrow. [? ? ?] 2 The man did had not get out left before another was in the shop, saying, “Miss Magggie, can you fix a hole in my coat right quick? I got it caught in a screen door a few minutes ago and you know that I can feel this cold wind.” Miss Maggie laughed and said, “ hand Hand me the coat and I I'll will see what I can do.” He pulled off his leather “lumber [?] jack” , and it wasn't many in a very few minutes before he was on his way , his coat fixed mended, and it had only cost him fifteen cents. Mrs. [?]is a large, dark headed woman [?] was dressed in a [?] wore a neat print dress.

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She Mrs. [Davison?] called, “ Edd Ed ”, and a negro Negro man came to the door, she told him to “fix up the fire she told him, [for?] “ the this room room's was getting cold and for him not to don't go off, for they had there's plenty of work to be [do?] done . She turned to me with a friendly smile and said [,?] “did you think I would never get through [?] it is it's like this every day.

“But that is that's where I get most of my business now For I don't get as much from the stores now. But Since Christmas they are they're not doing so much business, this time of the year. Yet I have all that I can do, and I don't take but very few new things to make since I have been running the shop by myself, #/ for I don't have the time for that.

“ [But?] all this is not interesting to you I know ,” she remarked. But I explained that was what I wanted, a story about the story of her life and her work. She laughed and said, “I don't think my story would be interesting to any anybody else, one, for I guess it is it's just about like most any ones. I have had my ups and downs, pleasures and ,# yes, # troubles too . # we all have them 'em .

There was another knock at the door, and in answer to her “ come Come in” the door opened and a negro Negro man came in, entered. he was well- dressed [nice?] and by his speech and manner [take? he made you me think of a colored Negro preacher, He said he had brought in a pair of pants that had a hole in them, and asked if could she fix them inside of two hours ?” cause Mistiss, I has just get'er gotta have 'em. # Mrs Davis told him that she would do the her best that she could. to finish the task on time.

As he went out, # the man from the Lee Morris's Morris Clothing Store 3 came in with a pair of new trousers to be adjusted to measurements of 38” waist 34” inseam length, and the cuff were to be put in. pants, for the cuffs to be [? ? ? ? ? ? ?] in the waist and 34” long in length [?] and that the customer would be back for them in two hours.

As he closed the door behind him, Mrs. Davis looked at me and [?] laughed again, and said “ I will I'll make a bargain with you,” she said, . “see all this work that I have to do [.]

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well Well , if you will fix this pair of pants for me, I will give you a story of my life and my business [.] how about it ? are you a good sport? “

I got up pulled off my hat and coat and told her to hand me the those pants. She looked at me and said “but grinned and gave me a quizzical look. you will you'll have to french-cuff them, “ she challenged, ” for I know they are not long enough to get a cuff without it. “ [But?] I said insisted that I could do that also too . And as I took the pants to the table to measure and mark them, she said “I # believe you know what you are doing. “ It, was my time turn to laugh, and I said informed her that I had fix fixed ed a good may many a pairs pair of pants, and that she need not worry about them, and that I was willing to work for my story. Mrs. Davis said, “well I like a good sport, “ she said ” but I did not [?] didn't think that you would you'd do it. But I will I'll be a good sport [?] too[,?] and if you don't mind me talking and working to too at the same time I will I'll give you the best story that I can. tell you all I can remember. But don't think that I won't have to stop, # for I will [For?] you see how it is.

It did not take me long to finish my work the chore , and I handed them to her to see if they were alright. would pass inspection. She said, “well , I was fooled one time . and you did a very good job .” she called,” Edd” “Ed” she called and [? ?] waited Waiting for him to come she said, “do you like coffee? “ I said that I liked it “ very much,” and she said, I replied, “now I knew that we will get along,” was her answer. As Edd came in the door she told him to take the pants to press, but fix our coffe pot on first Ed appeared, “Take these pants and press 'em,” she ordered. “but first fix some coffee for us, for I think a good cup of coffee will help us out. “ Edd Ed went out and came back with a 4 [? ? ? ? ?] coffee pot, full of water he fixed stirred up the fire again and [? ?] placed the coffee pot on the heater. Mrs. davis [Davison?] said, he will not won't forget our coffee, I just don't know what I would do without him . he has been with me so long , and knows just how I want every thing done [.] and he is one honest negro , Never bothers a thing.

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"But get your book and pencils pencil[.] you don't have to [mark?] sew any more, and if I talk to too much, just stop me. # For I really really like to talk and I get lonesome for someone to talk too. The wind was rattling the window windows [,'] and the water in the coffee pot was begining to [?] percolate as she started her story.

"I was born in a little two-room log house[,] on My Grandfather Sumers place, out near where Princeton is now. While I was still just a baby, Daddy moved to near the old paper mill. The place / is now called the [Cord?] Mill. But / the old paper mill building is still standing, but in [to ? ?] too a condition to be used for anything.

"My fater father and Jerome Wallace were the men that run operated the Paper machine[,] or "[In-jines?]," as they called them then. Of course they had helpers, but one of them either father or Mr. Wallace had to be on duty all the time. [And?] if one of them was off sick , or off for any other reason, [? ?] one had to stay [?] until the other [?] was back on duty. [? ? ?] There was [the?] only one woman that they [used?] employed in that part of the mill. And she counted the paper [.] it was made in large square sheets ready for the printers , and they said she was an expert. It was a long time before they ever got a machine that was as accurate and fast at that task as she was.

"Old man Bishop run ran the finishing machine. I have watched them work many a time when I was a child, for it was so interesting to see the machines run. And out from the Paper Mill, was the rag room, where the rags were sortened sorted, and each color was put in a seperate separate bin to [its self?]. They bought old clothes and rags to make paper. All buttons were cut off [.] # and they They were had to be very careful about the buttons that , for they a would button left on could ruin [?] a mchines machine if they [? ? ?] 5 "I was sent to school when I was about six, [?] but it was not like the schools are now. School then was in the Old Hall, and was all in one room. Miss Sally Wood was our teacher, and there was only teacher for [? ? ?] the whole school [.] and she taught all the children. She had There were about one hundred children[,] all sizes and ages, # from six years up, # and some of them # were almost grown. Our books were [?] spelling, out of the

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Old Blue Back Speller, # arithmetic , and geography. We sure had to study [.] every one stood up in row rows [? ? ?] for spelling bees, and every time you missed a word, you had to go the bottom of the row. Oh yes, we studied studied , but at that we [?] had some good [?] times in that old schoolhouse [.] [?] in later years it was made into a dwelling house[,] and is, I believe , still standing. at the time.

“It was a great thing to us kids, to work in the rag room at the paper mill after we were out of school. They were glad to have us too. Our job was to sort the rags, # and we enjoyed the work. [and?] they paid us fifty cents a month. [?] that was a lot of money to us then . # of course it wouldn't mean much to the kids these days. People from all around sold their old clothes and rags at the paper mill. And many time we found nickles and dimes in the bags of rags. # We were allowed to keep this money, # and we bought candy with it and had a big time.

“ And one day[,] I sure remember that time , for I think that pleasures and disappointments in our childhood days are better remembered than any thing else. We found a large bag of new clothes, and they were nice ones, dress dresses for women and children, # underwear, # stockings, # and some men's shirts. Well , we just dressed ourselves up, and put these things aside, for we wanted to keep them 'em . But the very next morning, a woman from town was out there hunting her clothes. She said Her maid had sold them and kept the money[.] And as the old saying goes, ‘our feathers fell,’ for we had to give up all [? ?] these nice clothes. 6 “ About this time they put in [?] machine machines to make paper bags. The machines would cut a hundred bags at a time, and that [?] provided some thing else [? ?] for us kids could to do . # We tied [up?] the bags in bundles, two hundred bags to a bundle; that was fun, for we folded half one way and the other half the other way. Those bag machines were a great curiosity to the people then, and they would come for miles to watch them run.

“ They also used jute to make paper. That was bought in large bales, and it [was?] made another job for us . We would tear up the jute into small piecies pieces to have it ready

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for the machines. One day we found a lot of paper money in a bale of jute. But two of the women that worked there took that away from us and said that they would have to send it back. But folks said that they kept it and bought them a home with it . # I don't know about that, but I do know that we did not didn't get any of the that money.

“And did you knew that they use used to make paper out of wood, # even back in those days. Well , they did [.?]# I don't remember just what kind of wood they used for it, but they would cut young saplings, # skin the bark off, # and grind them into pulp ready for the paper machine. The paper made from the wood was a heavy brown paper such as they use for wrapping and was called manila paper.

“ People was paid once a month then for their work, and it was the custom to buy a months supply of provisions on pay day. And they all traded at the company store. The men all liked their tobacco, and this was one supply that was not forgotten when they were buying groceries. [?] it was something they felt like they could not do without.

“And kids would slip tobacco out and chew it, the boys especially. One day some of the kids swiped some of their dads tobacco and told me that I had to hide it , and I had better put it where it would not be found. I decided that the old well would be the best place if I could climb up and put it on the sills in # the top of the well [shetters.?] I managed to climb up and [?] around it so nice along the sills, and was sure that no one would see it. But it 7 started raining that night, and it rained for a solid week.

“After the rain was over the kids told me to get their tobacco. I went to the old well[,?] and found it was ruined . the top of the [shettes?] had leaked, and the rain had [?] soaked that tobacco until it swelled up [?] twice as thick as it shoud should be. And I almost got a whipping beating from these kids, for of course they chewed it, and was sick. No I did not try any, for I knew better . [?] Mamma would sure have tanned my hide.

“ I had some older sisters and our house was just a gathering place for the young folks . there was a crowd of them in and out all the time, and I could get the biggest thrill out of

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watching and listing listening to them talk. One night , two girls come to our house to set a dumb supper. I was # just about seven then, # and I cried because they put me to bed, # for they had these supper suppers at midnight, # just on the stroke of twelve.

“They started their supper and one of my sisters and another girl put on pants and was going to scare them 'em . I could hear them talking for I wasn't asleep if I was in bed. I slipped up and told one of my Uncles what they [were?] was going to do. It was a disgrace in them days for a girl to dress up like a boy, # so he said that he would fix them. And when they started around the kitchen to scares scare the girls that was cooking, # he got after them 'em , and did they scream ? [?] any way it broke up the supper and I was satisfied.

“Did you ever hear about them old time dumb suppers ? [,?] they were was poplar popular then. That was the way the girls found out who was going to be their future husbands. I know it seems funny now to look back on [times?] things we as they were did then. But after all, I think people realy enjoyed life more we had more fun than the than they [?] young folks has now.

“Well , I will I'll try to tell you how they cooked these suppers. Two girls did the cooking, # set the table, # and each one used their right hand . everything was done backwards, # even to making the bread . they did every 8 thing together, # and each one just used one hand. They could not speak or laugh from the time they started until it was over ended, for if they did the spell was broken and nothing would happen.

“Everything must be ready just at twelve, the table set for two . and also a Bible and a bottle was placed on the table. Then the wind was supposed to blow and the doors come open , [?] and the men could were expected to come in and eat. They did not speak either, just [?] ate and walked out. If they a man picked up the Bible, # then they he would make a good husband, but, beware of the man that moved the bottle[,?] for you would sure get a

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[? ?] husband who would turn out bad and be a drunkard for sure. And if no [?] man come came , # and your coffin come in# then you was domed doomed to die an old maid.

“ These suppers were lots of fun, # for most every time the girls would get scared and wake up every one body in the house. Oh yes, they had to be the only two people awake in the house. “ At this time Edd Ed came in with cups , for us to [?] but before we poured our coffee[.] The negro Negro [?] customs came back for his trousers. [? ?] when [?] Mrs [Davison] only charged him fifteen cents for the work, [? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?] his [? ? ?] expressed in his best [pulpit?? memories.] # [? ? ? ?] We now [enjoyed?] the excellent coffee [? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?] Mrs. [?] [Davison?] was tired . for she had really rapidly reduced that pile of work as she talked. When I mentioned it, she said, “I am use used to it, # and it does not worry me. My customers are all so nice, and if I am occasionally a little late some times in getting out their work[,?] they never say anything. But I guess I had better get back to work. [?] you can rest if you are tried tired.” I told her that I was still trying to be a good sport, [?] was ready to write[,?] when she was ready to talk. I reminded her that my job was to write when she talked.

“Well I am going to tell you about how we use to spend Christmas. Christmas that lasted a week, # from christmas eve Christmas Eve , 'till 'til New Yeras Years. Nobody worked, just eat ate danced , and visited all during that week. But this one that I will tell you about is one that we have laughed over may many's the times. time I've laughed over the Christmas I'm going to tell you about now. three children arrived. Like so many other people in those days, they did not have enough money for the whole family to ride on the train for so such a long a trip, so the children started off several days ahead of their parents. They rode with friends a part of the way and then set out to walk the balance of the way. Those two girls and the boy got here on Christmas Eve, and if they wasn't a sight! One of them the girls weighed over two hundred pounds and she had walked the soles off of her shoes. 9 “Mamma was looking for her half-sister and family from Alabama to spend Christmas with us. None of us had ever seen them, and we was sure looking forward to their coming. We was having a big supper and dance for them on Christmas

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eve Eve night .# also an dance We kids were just on tiptoes, so excited we just couldn't hardly wait . for And, of course , we were looking for Santa Clause too and our tree was all ready. Mamma had killed turkeys and chickens, # and had been cooking cakes and pies for two weeks.

[*?]" But at last they came. Now , child, [I am going to tell you this just as I remember it.?] And I don't know if you will care to use it or not, [but?] we have had many laughs over this christmas, so many years ago. and My Aunt and Uncle got here several days before the children did. [?] like so many other people in those days, they did not have money enough for all of them to come on the train , [?] So they started the children [?] off days before they left [?] themselves . Ridding Riding part of the way with friends, and walking the rest of the way. But the two girls and boy got here on christmas eve . [?] if they wasn't a sight !# one of the girls weighed over two hundred pounds, and had walked the soles off her shoes.

"All of our folks and many of our friends were there. And Among one of them was mamma's neices nieces and her husband, a man named, Stencile. Also one of My Uncles and his daughter, they played fiddles and were to furnish the music for the dance. for they all played fiddles. Everything was cleared out of two room rooms [? ?] , And about three o'clock the young people started [?] dancing. We kids were happy . for we could watch them as long as wanted to , 'cause we didn't have to go to bed early on christmas Eve.

"The older women were busy cooking and getting the supper ready . every body was having a good time .# the man calling for the dance , would holler, " swing your pardners ." oh, it was a grand time .# and yet happy as we [?] we kids were so interested in the fat girl from Alabama ,# that we stayed pretty close around her. She did not seem to want to dance[,?] and we 10 couldn't understand that , And when we saw one of the boys start toward her[,?] we just had to hear what he said. He asked her if she would dance that set with him. We held our breath for her answer, and this is what she said, "I had just as [leif?] [lief?], dance with you as any body else, " she said " but I has walked all the way from

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Alabany to see Aunt Sis, and am to too tired and galled [galleded?] from walking to feel like dance dancing with anybody.”

There was a knock at the door[,?] Mrs. [?] [Daivson?] said, “come in”, A man from the dry cleaners brought in [?] more work, and with him was a man from the laundry [man?] , who wanted to know if she had been able to fix mend the coveralls that he brought her the day before. She laughed and said,” you will you'll be surprised [??] at how much wear that man can get [??] out of them 'em yet. “ As the [?] costumes looked at the coveralls he and said, “Miss Maggie Mollie , how do you do it? It makes no difference how bad anything is[,?] when we bring it to you, it is it's always fixed when we get it back.” He [????] requested his bill for the day before [?], paid it all , and went [?] departed.

“Mrs. [?] [Davison?] said, “ where was I ? wasn't we just fixing to eat ? well , anyway, they started eating supper about five o'clock, and we had [?] to set the that table eight times, there was so many to eat .# and of course, we children did not eat until all the grown people had [?] finished . Well , this man Stencile, sit sat down at the first table, and that man stayed there, eating with every table full of people. I never saw one person eat so much in all my life. There was plenty to eat, # but we kids were watching the turkey . there was one peice piece left on the dish [?] on the last table full was about to [finisher?] finish eating, and that man Stencile reached over and got it. We was so mad, but we knew better than to say anything. [?] much as we had to eat, we couldn't enjoy it for think thinking about of that last peice piece of turkey.

“The dance lasted all night, but we kids [?] got so sleepy we give gave it up and [?] went bed of our own accord. But we were up early the next morning, # ready for breakfast, # and we but first we had to see what Santa Clause had left for us. Of course we did not have things then like children do / now, but we had many nice things, and when it was time 11 for dinner, Mamma saved out some of the turkey for us, [,?] and I guess it was a good thing that she did for that man Stencile was still there, and still eating just like he did the day before.

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"I had just about finished school [?] when the old Paper Mill closed down[?], and we moved to Athens, near the old Check Mill[,?] on Broad St. We went to work there and , in the [?], and I still remember how that old mill looked. # I don't think that I will ever forget [?] how that old mill looked.

"It had large posts all through the mill, and one day my sister was leaning against one resting. One of the women thinking she would have some fun , yelled out to her to move quick. It scared my sister[,?] [?] so that she jumped to [?] and tore out a hand full of her hair that caught on a nail. catching her hair on a nail and pulled out a handfull of hair. Every one laughed, # but it made me so mad[,?] and I hit her so hard [?] she fell in the floor. We were due some teasing because We were new people in the settlement, and due a lot of teasing, but after that they did not [?] pester us any more. And we were soon satisfied there[,?] and having the same good old times that we did had enjoyed in our old home community.

"Just when I was thinking that I was about grown, I was visiting my sister, and it was there that I met my present husband[.?] at my sister's house. He came to see my brother-in-law and had the pretties prettiest horse and buggy. He carried me to ride, but we just went # down the road roAd , not far enough to get out of site sight of the house. But even at that, Mamma heard about it. She didn't believe much in whipping, # but she sure could find other ways of punishing, and just for that one little ride, I had to stay at home for three long months. And I was not even allowed to go to church and Sunday school.

"I had a girl friend that I use used # to spend the night with real often, and she would visit me also. One night [?] too. Once I was spending the night at her house[,?] while her mother and father were away visiting, and the was no one at home except the children. [??] Some of her sisters were much older than we, were, so nobody was afraid to stay. But we decided that after the others had [?] all gone to [bed?] sleep , that we would slip [up?] out of bed and cook a dumb supper, for we had wanted to do this for a / long time, but they had always said that we were to too little. 12 "After they were all in bed we got up . yes we

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were was scared, but we was determined to show them 'em that we could do it as well as they could. And we did get the supper ready, didn't even forget the Bible and Bottle. Two boys that knew us had been fishing and was on their way home, saw seeing the light in the kitchen so late they thought that some one body might be sick, and came by to see if there was anything that they could do . But when they saw us in the kitchen they knew what we was doing, and just pushed opened the door, # walked in and picked up the bottle and went out. We were scared so bad[,?] we couldn't move for a few minutes, # but when we did get to yelling[,?] we had everyone in the house up. But , strange as it may seem, one of those boys is now my husband, and my girl friend married the other [?].

“And now I am going to stop a little while for lunch and drink another cup of Edds Ed's coffee. Do you go home for lunch, or do you eat in town? I said that I did not get home as it was to far out, and I usualy usually [?] lunched in town. “Well then, “ she said ” we will just order us somthing sent down here, for I do not leave the shop, for there's there's is always some one coming in. We ordered sandwiches and were argueing arguing as to who was [going?] to pay for them, when a cutomer customer came in and suggested that he flip toss a coin and settle [????] the question. I lost . my last fifty cents went to pay for the sandwiches. [#?] [But?] as we ate our lunch Mrs Davis said” I am I'm glad that you came to see me to day, but lam I'm sorry that I I've made you work[,?] so hard. but I have enjoyed talking with you, and it seems like I have got along so well with my work better than usual because I had good helpful company . But I guess I had better get back at it now , # but we can still talk.

“ I have been married twice [?] I met my first husband on a picnic . yes we had real picnics then . and every one went and we went in the those old tallahe[‘?]s. They just put straw in the bottom to sit on, and all [?] piled in together. After dinner[,?] there would be a ball game, # and my husband was one of the [?] players. It was not long after this, that Once we went with a crowd of young people the Old Beaver Dam Church, to see a foot washing . after that was over we rode to the Jim Smith place , where One of the guards showed us all over around. 13 the We were especially interested in the prison labor camp.

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There was so many prisoners, some of them were crippled up in different ways, some with one arms arm and some had only with one leg, but they all had to work. It was on the way home from there that [?????] Sam proposed him. And in about three months we were married.

“ We went to housekeeping in the house with Mr. and Mrs. Elliott[?] Endicott . We were was both young but got along fine, and was were very happy. # It was during this time that my Daddy got burned so bad. He was working at the old waterworks plant then. And some of the pipes had been condemed condemned , but they had not changed them. And one day just as Daddy passed by, # one the large pipes with about two hundred pounds of steam in it bursted, # and the steam went all over Daddy's left side even his and head, and just missed missing his eye eyes , he was just a solid blister. There was no ambulances then, # and they carried him home # in a cab. They had two doctors with him and they tiold told us that he could not live until dinnertime. All the our family was called home .# [?] two of the our neighbors put him in bed, pulled took off his clothes and shut all the windows, because they said the air would make the fire go inside.

“They [?] started to giving him whiskey , and afterwards they [?] told my Daddy later that he drank over a half of a gallon. # I don't know about that, but I do know that they gave him some, for [?] my husband went to the despeneary dispensary and got it for daddy. The doctors came back at noon[,?] expecting to find him dead they but after they had stayed [?] a long time , they and told us [?] he had a chance to get well . # They said it was because the whiskey had run the fire on to the outside. [?] it took him a long time to get up and where he could go back to work. But in a few years he started to having strokes of paralysis in his left side ,# and the fourth [?] stroke killed him.

“My husband died in 1907. After he passed away I went back to live with Mamma and Dady Daddy . I was blue and discouraged, and decided that if I could work it would help me, and I went to got work at the Climax Hosiery Mill. I worked therefor a while and then I went to work for Mr. [?] Hart at his overall plant. “At first Mr. Head had an overall plant.

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I had never done any of 14 that kind of work, # but I started-in and when I had learned it from the bottom up , [?] I made eight dollars \$8 a week. [?] we made some Khaki work pants [?] and did so good on them 'em [,?] that Mr. [?] Hart decided he would open up a tailor shop. He got the place fixed up and put in all the machines. [?] he sent to New York for two Bohemians, to learn us how to be tailors.

He paid thw Bohemians fifty dollars them [?] \$50 a week each. I guess they earned it too, # for we was hard to learn. when When the war came on # and we got orders for officers' uniforms , Then to get a raise [in our?] pay and our pay was raised to eighteen dollars \$18 a week. The orders kept coming, # and he had to put on ten more girls to help, they [sew?] [sew?] on buttons, fell [?] seams and whipped whip in waistbands. And then the older girls help get another raise to twenty five dollars \$25 a week. [?] \$25 a week. [?] we were was just rusehed to death with orders all the time while the war lasted.

“ But after the war was over, The war ended and things began to drop . he Mr Hart couldn't collectand his business began going down. And then we were out He had to cut us to fifteen dollars' \$15 a week, # and the extra help was laid off. It was this time that I saw my first fight between men. And I don't think that I ever want to see another one.

“The Bohemians got to fussing about their work[,?] and then [?] started fighting and throwing things at each other . the women were all scared, and I started to go for Mr. [??] Hart. just as I got to the door, one of them threw the stand that the heavy press iron sit sits on, [?] it just missed my head. I screamed, # and that brought Mr. [?] Hart to see what was the trouble.

“ When he got them 'em straightened out [?] and tried to talk to them 'em. He told them 'em that the Southern men did not fight in front of ladies. But they told Mr. Head[,?] that it didn't hurt us, and that the ladies in New York didn't think anything of a fight, that they were use used to it. [?] they didn't fight any more around us.

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"Business was getting worse, and Mr. Head [?] Hart seemed about to go broke . [?] we got another cut be twelve dollars that sent our wages down to \$12 a week. And that is when [??] Milly Myers and I went into the tailoring business for our self ourselves . We rented a place on Clayton 15 street over the Dunaway furniture store , And we made good while we were there.

" Then Mr. Head Hart got a big order for knickerbocker pants. He came down to our place and begged us to come back and work for him, at least [?] til until he could get out that order[,?] and to give him time to learn some one else to do the work. He had always been so nice to us[,?] that we went back to help him out. # " We stored our machines and other things, for we knew that we would need them later.

"And in 1922, we rented this place here form Lee Morris. Sally Milly came down here then and went to work as soon as the shope shop was ready. But I stayed on with Mr. Head Hart for several months, # until his orders were all filled and he had some one that could do his work. But as long as he was in business here, [??] would come to our shop and beg us to come back and work for him.

"We have done fairly well. We Made a good living, and during the Hoover administration, we never mad made under fifteen dollars \$15 each a week after all exspences expences were paid. And that is how we paid each other, after all bills were paid, we divided the rest between us. We worked together until she Milly died in Feb February 1938. She was taken sick in 1937, and they found that she had a tumor . [?] after that she was never well any more. And part of the time she was not able to work at all.

"But before [?] Milly got sick, # we made all kind of things, mens clothing, ladies dresses, coats, in # fact just everything that came to hand, as well as doing our regular work of repairing and alterations altering garments. We also made pants for the Cavalry Troops that are stationed here. And I still make them, but [?] that is the only new stuff I take in now. [?] there is no way out of that for they just bring them 'em and leave them 'em .

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"We have always tried to be reasonable with our customers, # and not over charge them. And they have been very nice to us, and we have made everything from airplane wings to grave awnings, # so I guess we have 16 tried about 'most everything that can be sewed. And I have never had any trouble with collecting, as most of the time [??] paid they pay when they get the work garments.

"We use used to order most all of our supplies from Bruner & Mason Woolen Co. in New York , But since I don't need so much by myself, I get some from the Atlanta supply [??] I buy what I can from the stores here, as they give me their work , and get some things from [Atlanta?] supply houses. I have a girl [?] helps on busy, days, and I pay her two dollares a day. And another one that I do not pay a regular salary Another girl works for me by the hour , as she just works when she can get away form home, and some times that is just for a few hours a day. [?] I like them both, and they seem to like me also.

" Business is not as good now as it use used to be, # but as you see I have all that the work I can do, and make a good living out of it. I do not belong to any [??] organization, and if there is one here in town I have never heard of it. My days work here starts , sometimes when I am very busy around seven in the morning if I am very busy, but most times around eight. I always close around six except on Saturday nights, and then I say open until the stores close, # as I most always have work from then late.

" One day not very long after I had gone to work for Mr. Head Hart I was walking down Broad Street, when who shoud should I [?] meet but the boy that came to my dumb supper. He had been married also, but had lost his wife not so very long after my husband died. And that meeting was the begining of a friendship[,?] that later ended in a happy marriage. He was then, and still is , a great teaser[,?] and enjoys playing a joke jokes on me.

"One night he came down to the house to see me and ask asked me and one of my sisters to go to the show with him. Shows then only cost five 5 and [? cents] 10¢ . Well when we

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were almost there, he said that we could go in the show and he would wait on the outside for us, as he did not have enough money for all of us to go in.

“ I was embrassed and said that we would just go back home. But 17 he insisted that we go on. I got mad and said that I could pay my own way in the show. But my sister just laughed; it seemed that she could tell that he was teasing, and she told him to just give her[,?] a dime and she would buy peanuts and candy. Oh yes, we went to the show and he went with us ,# but I was so mad that I could not enjoy it. And after we came out, # he bought me a large basket of fruit, I wouldn't have it, but my sister told him to just give it to her show. [?] they both like to tease me now about that show. [?] it was a long time before I would let him come to see again.

“When one of my sisters was fixing to get married , He came walking in and told Mamma that it was going to be a double wedding, # for he was going to marry me, # and that she would lose two daughters instead of one. I told them it was not so, # but he would just laugh and say it was so, # and he had everyone beleiving believing it . [?] even when the preacher came, he told them that we would be next. I was so mad, # but the more I quarreled the more he laughed. But he won out at last, # and in 1913 we were married.

“ We have our little home that we bought when we were married, # and we are still living there. We have no children, and there is no one there but just ourselves. But we have a very happy home, # with our chicken[,?] and flowers . yes, we have a lovely flower garden, # but he my husband looks after that, [?] the chickens also, and he takes a great pride in his flowers. He tends the chickens too. I have my shop, and he has his barber shop. And did you know that he is the oldest white barber in Athens. His brother was the first white barber to open a shop here . for all the barbers used to be colored. He learned my husband the barber trade when he was just a boy, and now all the older white barbers are dead, # and he is the oldest one left in the barber business, I mean by that, he has been a barber longer than any of the others.

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“ We both work every day. I do my house work at night and he tends to his chickens and flowers. We have our church, and we visit our friends and [?] have a lot of company. Sometimes we go to the shows, but we both like reading, # and we read most of the time , after we get through with our 18 work at night. And then too, we have our car, and can get out on Sundays when ever we feel like we want to go some place.

“ But it has been lonesome here in the shop since my pardner died. And I sure do miss her, for we had worked at the same trade together so long, even before we went in business together. And we never had any disagreements over our work, # for what one done was alright all# right with the other. Our customers have been nice # and we have tried to please them, and I believe that I can say something that not many people in business can say, and especially in this kind of business. And that' is that's this, since I have been in business, I have I've lost less than five dollars, that is that's right, I have less than five dollars on my books from the time that I first opened a shop until now , that has not been paid. [?] I think that is excellent. Do you suppose there is another business in Athens that can show fewer uncollected accounts?

“ There was another knock at the door, and in answer to her” come in,” a man came in entered and asked her if she could sew some buttons on his the trowsers trousers , that he had on was wearing . Mrs. Davis [Davison?] told him to go in the next room which was the dressing room and that Edd Ed would get his trowsers trousers for [?] The man went in the room and she called Edd, and as he went to get the her to work on. As Ed was bringing the pants, she said” I have three rooms . this is the work room, the next is the dressing room, and the last one is where Edd Ed does all the pressing.

“ Edd Ed came in with the man's pants trousers. and she sewed on the suspender suspender buttons[,?] he carried them back to the man and sent the garment back to the customer . And when the man came out, he soon made his appearance asked [????] she said a dime the price off the work. “A dime,” she said. He handed her a quarter, and said that he did not have any change; and that he appreciated her doing the work so quick, #

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and for would the ladies to just get [??] coca colas with the change . and he went out was gone before Mrs. Davis [Daivson?] could give him his change.

“Well ,” she said, we will just have a coca cola colas ,” and ordered them. As we waited for the drinks and I was preparing prepared to leave. # [?] Mrs. [Davison?] said “I sure am glad that you came in today, but I am I'm sorry that I made you work . the truth is, # I didn't think that you [?] do it. But if you do as good 19 a job on this story as you did on the, pants, # you all you'll be alright all right . I said was afraid that I couldn't do that well on the story, even with all the good material [?] had to work with, but [?] would [?] to do the best I could. The drinks came then and [?] [drank?] we enjoyed them, she said I hope that you will you'll come back again to [?] “ she said , just stop any time that you come this way, and Edd Ed will have make coffee for us . for he does not doesn't forget that when it it's cold weather. And we have it all the time for our [?] and [?] also when they come by.

I thanked her for the nice story her life history material , and for the very pleasant day and that I had enjoyed it, for it was indeed a in her very friendly shop[.?] and as I went down the stair [?], I knew that I would like to go back again and have another that over a cup of coffee . with her.